



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 2ND

Since 2007, **April 2nd** has been traditionally recognized as **World or International Autism Awareness Day** and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education has used the **Autism Awareness/Acceptance Month** as an opportunity to share information relating to Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Some ways to participate in the World Autism Awareness Day and the National Autism Awareness Month:

1. Print and Share [Friendship Fact Autism Awareness Bookmarks](#) by the Learning Curve
2. Learn & Share information about autism-related wandering [Autism Safety – Be AWAARE!](#)
 - [NAA's Be Ready Booklet for Caregivers](#) (is a free, downloadable toolkit containing extensive resources to help caregivers prevent and respond to wandering incidents. Printed copies of this booklet are included in NAA's Big Red Safety Boxes, also in Spanish)
 - [First Responder Toolkit](#)
 - [Teacher Toolkit](#)
 - Provide a copy of the [First Responder Toolkit](#) to your local police department. Ask them to implement Reverse 911 in your county and read the included Directive from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.



3. Learn & Share information about a new autism related website [**AweTsome**](#).
4. Employment resources:
 - [**Employment Resources for Alaskans with Disabilities \(Division of Vocational Rehabilitation\)**](#) that assist people with disabilities in obtaining and keeping a job
 - [**Project Search**](#) (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su): a school-to-work transition program that is designed to prepare young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive, integrated employment. A successful outcome with Project SEARCH is defined as competitive employment in an integrated setting, working at least 16 hours per week year-round, and earning the prevailing wage for the area.
5. Print out and laminate [**Autism Awareness bookmarks**](#).
6. Listen and share a great on-line module. [**Autism Internet Modules are excellent and free**](#).
7. Learn about fantastic people with autism. [**Haley Moss is an accomplished artist and author**](#). She has written a [**GREAT book, Middle School: The Stuff Nobody tells You about**](#) and [**A Freshman Survival Guide for College Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders**](#).
8. **Watch a video** “Autistic Student's inspirational Graduation Speech.”
9. [**CDC free library of photos and videos of developmental milestones 2 months - 5 years**](#)
10. [**Alaska Autism Resource Center \(AARC\) Resources**](#):
 - Training Events - AARC will be offering at least 8 training topics in 3 series (Autism Basics, Let's Get Social, Parent Talk)
 - [**Subscribe**](#) to our public AARC event calendar.
 - [**Visit**](#) AARC event hub to sign up for events!



- Sign up for AARC Tip of the Month - we will send out written instructions on how to navigate our hub and platforms in mid-March.
- Subscribe to AARC YouTube Channel and our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. We will post a Quick Tip Tuesday video tutorial on accessing everything and will also post announcements on our social media
- **Alaska Walks for Autism** Kick-Off (April 2nd - World Autism Day), Participation (April 2nd - 9th), Closing Ceremonies (April 10th)
- **Autism Roadshow: People with Disabilities Want More Than Entry Level Jobs. They Want Careers!** Register for a webinar of self-advocate Max Barrows April 17 at 9am; Tuesdays in April at 6pm. Participation: April 2nd - 9th, Closing Ceremonies: April 10th.
- **Family Fun Nights** (Tuesdays & Fridays): inclusive & supported family fun. Play Bingo and Kahoot with AARC.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: GCDSE@alaska.gov OR
1(888) 269-8990.